

Dr. Trezevant's report includes under the head of cures, the five patients here stated to have been "removed under improvement."

The reports include an elaborate consideration of the various means of moral treatment. Dr. T. proposes, as a new method of diversion and exercise, a machine of his own invention. As it is a novelty, we quote his remarks upon it. "I am, moreover, impressed with the belief, that if one was erected, that our now workers could be urged into action, by the spirit of fun and frolic. Many are willing to play off a practical joke, and take great pleasure in inducing them to enter into what they would call sport. The action would commence in play, but they would be compelled to go on with it, if the excitement of their feelings would not induce them to continue, and the workers would become partakers of the pleasure of the ride, and exhilarating effects of rapid movement in the open air; but, should they determine not to move, and positively refuse to work, still the very effort which they make to sustain their determination, calls the brain into action, and produces a new train of thoughts and feelings; and if they decline motion, they must hold by their hands, and use much muscular exertion, and my object will be in some measure accomplished in spite of themselves. So that whether they act in accordance to my wishes or their own will, the much desired objects will be effected. The mode proposed would be wheels connected together by an endless band, and so arranged as to act on a large horizontal wheel, on which seats could be placed similar to the flying horse. This would be exercise and amusement to all parties, and might be made to answer the purpose of a rotary chair, and by the different positions to and from the centre, excite or diminish the activity of the brain; it can be made to answer the purpose of a circular swing, and, by the centrifugal force, rouse the brain to any extent, and with the centripetal motion depress it. The force required to effect this, I will make by an endless band, on which one or more patients shall walk, and arrange it, so that no possible injury can occur; and they shall not be exercised beyond their powers, but sufficiently to make them more healthy, and cheer their minds by seeing the effect of their apparent mischief on those revolving about them. I cannot but believe, that an instrument of this kind will be beneficial to all parties, and may, with a little ingenuity, be adapted to many useful purposes."

P. E.

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ART. XV.—*Practical Observations on Certain Diseases of the Chest, and on the Principles of Auscultation.* By PEYTON BLAKISTON, M. D., F. R. S.; Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians; Physician of the Birmingham General Hospital, and formerly Fellow of Emanuel College, Cambridge. 8vo. pp. 384. Philadelphia: Lea and Blanchard.

THE importance of auscultation as a means of diagnosis in the diseases of the chest being now almost universally recognized, no physician can be considered excusable who has not made himself acquainted with its principles and practice. With the consideration of auscultation, therefore, the present work commences; nearly one-fourth of its pages being devoted to this subject. The great object of the author has been to develop the principles of auscultation in as elementary a manner as possible; and, so far as mere description can do, he has succeeded in rendering the auscultatory sounds and indications plain and intelligible. In order to assist the novice and to prevent repetition in referring to the laws of sound, a short summary of such of its properties as are applicable to auscultation of the chest, has been prefixed to the chapters on the latter subject. The student will find the portion of the present work devoted to the principles of auscultation, a very useful manual in his investigation of this essential means of diagnosis at the bed side, where alone any certain and accurate knowledge of it can be acquired.

The pathological and therapeutical observations of Dr. Blakiston in reference to some of the leading diseases of the thoracic organs, are, we are assured, the faithful report of facts observed in private and hospital practice. In almost every one of the one hundred and twenty-two cases, the details of which are introduced in the volume, the symptoms during life were witnessed and noted down by the

author: and, in the event of death occurring, he was either present at the examination, or inspected the diseased parts after their removal. Dr. Blakiston, therefore, holds himself responsible for the accuracy with which the cases have been observed, and the fidelity with which they have been reported.

The work is, therefore, to be received as a record of the personal experience of the author, rather than as a systematic treatise on the diseases which it embraces; and it is this feature which gives to it its chief value and authority.

The affections of the chest, to which the observations it records refer, are thoracic aneurism, chronic heart disease, circumscribed pleurisy, chronic pleurisy, plastic pneumonia, and phthisis pulmonalis. Upon the causes, symptoms, progress, diagnosis and treatment of each of which, the remarks of Dr. Blakiston will be found invariably interesting, and generally sound and instructive. The reader is notified in the preface that "there are certain views of treatment pervading these pages, which have resulted from the observation of disease in general, and of facts more numerous than those brought forward in this work." These relate to the substitution of mercury for venesection in acute inflammations, more especially those affecting serous and fibrous membranes, and to the employment of tonic in combination with sedative remedies in a large class of chronic disorders. Such views are not peculiar to the writer, but still, they are by no means universally adopted, or carried out in practice. As they are, in his case, principally founded on cases that have occurred in a populous manufacturing district, they may be considered, perhaps, as inapplicable to the inhabitants of other localities, where the nature of the employment and the surrounding atmosphere have a more invigorating effect on the constitution. A slight allowance, the author thinks, may possibly be required for this difference in circumstances; at the same time it must be borne in mind, he adds, "that many cases were observed among the higher classes, to whom this remark does not apply. Some old practitioners, of sound judgment, are of opinion that depletion can be less borne by persons in general at the present time than it could be forty or fifty years ago. There is probably some truth in this, for, in proportion as civilization advances, and commercial enterprise is extended, the mind is more exercised, and the nervous system more taxed, so that to a certain extent the constitution is thereby impaired and debilitated. Be this as it may, it will hardly be denied by any that venesection has been, and is still practised with too little caution and discrimination."

We cannot go to the full extent the author has in his opposition to venesection in the acute inflammatory diseases, for, however correct his remarks may be in reference to those diseases as they occur in the communities to which his practice was principally confined, they will not apply in all their force to the same class of diseases as they present themselves to the American practitioner. Nevertheless, many valuable practical hints may be derived from his exposition as well of the therapeutics as of the pathology of the several inflammatory and chronic affections of which he treats.

D. F. C.

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ART. XVI.—*On the Blood and Urine.* By JOHN WILLIAM GRIFFITH, M. D., F. L. S., &c.; G. OWEN REES, M. D., F. R. S., F. G. S., &c., and ALFRED MARKWICK, M. D., &c., in one volume—pp. 182, 165, 113–160. Philadelphia: Lea & Blanchard, 1848.

THE three treatises, contained in the volume before us, form a valuable addition to our yet scanty stock of works upon the blood and urine. The authors, whose separate productions have been thus collated, are well known for their industrious researches in the field of humoral pathology, and their opinions and observations are entitled to our fullest confidence. If it had been consistent with justice to them, we could have desired that the results of their individual labours might have been condensed into a single essay; a complete treatise would thus have been formed, and the reader spared the fatiguing recurrence of many statements necessarily the same in separate works treating of one subject. Although each of these has merits peculiar to itself, to which we will hereafter advert, they all possess in common the excellence of being clear in language and concise in detail, and the more